



# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

## SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 26, 2005

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (Authority) Board of Directors (Board) was called to order by Gary Wyatt, President, at 10:15 A.M., Thursday, May 26, 2005, at Imperial Irrigation District in El Centro, CA.

President Wyatt introduced Joe Loya, the Board replacement for Raymond Torres.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESENT**

Marion Ashley  
Andy Horne  
Russell Kitahara  
Al Loya, Secretary  
Joe Loya  
Stella Mendoza  
Gary Wyatt, President

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ABSENT**

Larry Grogan  
Peter Nelson, Vice President  
Roy Wilson

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Juan De Lara

#### **AGENCY**

Riverside County  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Torres Martinez Tribe  
Torres Martinez Tribe  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial County

#### **AGENCY**

Imperial County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Riverside County

#### **AGENCY**

Coachella Valley Association of Governments

#### 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Evert English, The Salton Sea Seafarer, spoke of an article written by Diane Mooney in the LA Weekly.

#### 3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ron Enzweiler reported the grant proposal for the Wetlands Master Plan is being presented to the Wildlife Conservation Board today. Bill Brownlie is in Sacramento and has called to say the project has been approved.

Mr. Enzweiler noted the kick off meeting with IID regarding the selenium treatment pilot project is Friday. Additional pending grants will be discussed at the next Board Meeting along with the 2005-06 budget.



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May 26, 2005

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Public Policy & Planning Committee is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>. Added to the roster are Cheryl Walker, Mayor of El Centro and Jo Shields, Mayor of Brawley. In addition, we are seeking officials from Calipatria and Westmorland.

#### 4. **POLICY DIRECTION BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ron Enzweiler, followed up on Board direction from the April Board meeting and presented for discussion and consideration two policy positions of the Authority.

##### A. **DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR POLICY POSITION ON DEFINITION OF SALTON SEA AUTHORITY PLAN**

The 1<sup>st</sup> policy position is a definition of the Salton Sea Authority plan for the permanent restoration of the Salton Sea and its ecosystem. This definition defines the Authority's plan in terms of what we intend to accomplish and how we plan to make it a reality and not a particular configuration of dam and dikes or other design details.

Dan Parks, Coachella Valley Water District, read a statement from Peter Nelson stating Mr. Nelson's concerns on the terms of a firm water supply and a beneficial use of Colorado River water to the Sea. Mr. Nelson requested Mr. Enzweiler schedule a meeting with Coachella Valley Water District staff to review the statements.

Al Loya requested staff use local labor and materials for any construction projects.

Board members requested time to discuss with their Boards as there were concerns with a statement in the definition about a firm, legal water supply.

##### B. **DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR POLICY POSITION ON REQUESTED FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> policy position is a definition of requested federal involvement in Salton Sea restoration efforts for phased and coordinated implementation of the Salton Sea Authority plan. The purpose of this statement is to identify the federal actions that are necessary or desirable to enable the Authority to implement its Salton Sea Restoration Plan as a locally-driven public/private partnership project within the next 12 months.

President Wyatt requested that a Policy Position of the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors be prepared for State of California involvement to be reviewed by member agencies and placed on the June



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## SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 26, 2005

Board agenda.

5. **PROJECT FINANCING**

A. **PROJECT FINANCING MEETING REPORT**

Ron Enzweiler reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Project Financing Committee was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, Mike Wilson, Councilmember, City of Indio was elected Chairman and Tim Kelley, President & CEO, Imperial Valley Economic Development Commission was elected Vice-Chairman.

The Project Financing Committee heard a presentation by Stone & Youngberg on Investment Banking and Real Estate Advisory Services for the Restoration of the Salton Sea. The committee recommended the Authority obtain the services of a qualified financial advisor to assist in structuring the Request for Qualifications (RFQ), evaluation and short-listing the most qualified respondents, and in negotiating an engagement agreement with the selected firm. The Authority will utilize the resources of member agencies and other local entities which have staff personnel qualified to provide the above described financial advisory services. The committee recommended asking the Board to authorize staff to prepare and send out an RFQ for Investment Banking and Real Estate Advisory Services.

*A motion was made by Marion Ashley and seconded by Stella Mendoza to authorize staff to prepare a Request for Qualifications for Investment Banking and Real Estate Advisory Services. There were no objections. The motion carried.*

B. **PRESENTATION ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS MODEL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Javier Weckmann, Tetra Tech, made a presentation to the Board on Redevelopment in California. Mr. Weckmann presented six examples of typical redevelopment models working with a small staff. The models reflected the use of multiple sources of funding where local officials control the project through partnership's with master developers who are working to resolve challenges and technical issues.

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FOR TWO NEW WETLAND SITES**

Ron Enzweiler reported that the Citizens Congressional Task Force has asked the Authority to assist with environmental compliance and permitting for two new pilot wetlands to be constructed on the Alamo River, one site located on Shank Road and the other site near Holtville. The funding from the Authority will be used for compliance with State and local regulations, including CEQA.



# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

## SALTON SEA AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING May 26, 2005

*A motion was made by Stella Mendoza and seconded by Russell Kitahara to authorize staff to approve a contract extension of \$62,000 with Tetra Tech for Environmental Compliance for two new wetland sites. There were no objections. The motion carried.*

### **7. STATE PLANNING PROCESS / SALTON SEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Rick Hoffman, Salton Sea Advisory Committee, reported that two meetings are planned for June regarding inflows. Mr. Hoffman noted the new Salton Sea Chief at the Department of Water Resources is Dale Hoffman-Floerke. The next Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled for July.

### **8. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DRAFT LANGUAGE & RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SB 1081**

President Wyatt distributed draft – 5/23/05, SB 1081, a document he assembled following a meeting with Brian Nestande, Willie Brown, Senator Denise Ducheny and Assemblyman John Benoit. The document was categorized into sections: Language that came directly from Senator Denise Ducheny's bill; Language previously circulated among the Authority Board members; Language that's important to the two water districts; Language that's important to the two counties; and Language that involves liability issues.

Al Loya noted the Torres Martinez Tribe would like to be included in future discussions as the county and water districts were asked for input.

President Wyatt has requested that SB 1081 be a 1-year bill giving the Authority time to secure funding sources and proceed with the Infrastructure Financing District.

### **9. SALTON SEA CENTENNIAL RECAP**

#### **A. FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT**

A Centennial celebration event contribution and expense report was presented to the Board to receive and file.

#### **B. LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO RON SPEARS**

President Wyatt thanked Ron Spears for his leadership organizing the Salton Sea Centennial. A



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## SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

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May 26, 2005

proclamation will be signed by President Wyatt and Ron Enzweiler and presented to Mr. Spears.

**10. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT**

**A. IMPERIAL VALLEY**

Bill Gay declined to comment.

**B. COACHELLA VALLEY**

Brian Nestande declined to comment.

**11. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2005
- B. Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2005
- C. Warrant Register Ratification 04/01/05 to 04/30/05
- D. Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration, Recreation & Economic Opportunities Evaluation – Presented to the Salton Sea Advisory Committee on May 18<sup>th</sup>

*A motion was made by Andy Horne and seconded by Stella Mendoza to approve the Minutes of April 28, 2005, the minutes of May 10, 2005, the Warrant Register Ratification issued by the Salton Sea Authority 04/01/05 to 04/30/05, and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration, Recreation & Economic Opportunities Evaluation – Presented to the Salton Sea Advisory Committee on May 18<sup>th</sup>. There were no objections. The motion carried.*

**12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

*A motion was made by Marion Ashley and seconded by Russell Kitahara to re-elect the existing slate of officers. There were no objections. The motion carried.*

**13. MEMBER INFORMATION / DISCUSSION / CORRESPONDENCE**

Ron Enzweiler reminded the Board that in August the Board is in recess.



# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

## SALTON SEA AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING May 26, 2005

**A. LETTER TO SENATOR SHEILA KUEHL**

A copy of the letter sent to Senator Sheila Kuehl thanking her for her efforts and success in getting SB 1081 through the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee was distributed.

**B. LETTER TO SENATOR DENISE DUCHENY**

A copy of the letter sent to Senator Denise Ducheny thanking her for her efforts and success in getting SB 1081 through the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee was distributed.

**14. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday, June 23, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at the Imperial Irrigation District, La Quinta, CA.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Gary Wyatt adjourned the meeting at 12:05 P.M.